

Through December 23, 584 trees had been removed from the Middlesex/Union infestation area. Of the 584 trees, 364 were infested trees and 220 were high-risk host trees near infested trees.

Crews continued to work along a streambed in the Avenel section of Woodbridge along the Carteret border. In this first phase of cutting, 1,000 host trees will be removed, including the 410 identified as infested. Over the next several months, more than 4,000 host trees in total will be removed.

Field surveys of the Middlesex/Union infestation continued this week, with 58,060 trees inspected to date. The number of infested trees remained at 410.

WNJU 47 - Telemundo/NBC TV, covered the tree removal process for a Spanish-language news report on ALB. Barry Emens, USDA-APHIS New Jersey ALB Cooperative Eradication Program Director, and Elisandra Sanchez, USDA-APHIS-PPQ Compliance Officer for the New Jersey ALB Cooperative Eradication Program, were interviewed, providing information/history on the Middlesex/Union infestation, explaining the need to remove the trees in order to stop the spread of the ALB, the need for public support in allowing program officials to remove infested trees, to inspect their trees and not to remove wood outside of the quarantine. The story aired during the 6 p.m. Newscast on December 22, 2004 which was broadcasted via cable in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Rosa Yoo, New Jersey Forest Service/ALB Outreach coordinator, was on-site during the tree removal process to answer any questions about reforestation posed by either homeowners or businesses.